



NY AND NC COMPARE EVIDENCE ACROSS SIX STATES, FIND LINK EFFICIENTLY WITH NIBIN

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On December 19, 1999, a resident was shot and killed in Fayetteville, North Carolina. The Fayetteville Police Department's investigation into the murder resulted in the issuance of an arrest warrant for a suspect. The arrest warrant information was entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) national computer database, to make other law enforcement agencies aware that the suspect was wanted and should be considered armed and dangerous. Authorities believed that the suspect had returned to his home area of New York City.

On January 12, 2000, New York City Narcotic Task Force officers arrested a subject for narcotics possession, seizing drugs and a 9mm semi-automatic pistol from the subject. A check of the subject's name in the NCIC system revealed the arrest warrant outstanding on the murder charge. The subject was extradited to Fayetteville, and awaits trial for the December 19, 1999 murder.

This case highlights an important aspect of the NIBIN system: its capacity to allow the fast and efficient comparison of information, even across large geographical areas. In this case, in order to provide preliminary results without transporting evidence, the agencies took full advantage of their NIBIN links. Each agency entered its relevant evidence into its own NIBIN system - New York entered the bullet and cartridge casing resulting from testfiring the seized

weapon, and the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (NCSBI) entered the bullet and cartridge casing found at the crime scene. When the weapon recovered in New York was testfired using Winchester Silver Tip, the same type of ammunition used in the murder in North Carolina, a very high correlation was found between the testfire and the recovered evidence.

This high correlation result gave the NCSBI cause to have the testfire evidence itself shipped from New York to North Carolina for a confirmatory opinion by a firearms examiner. After examining it, one of NCSBI's firearms examiners made a positive identification, matching the testfired projectile from the suspect's firearm to the projectile found at the scene of the homicide.

The linking of the testfire in New York to the evidence in North Carolina demonstrates the usefulness of the NIBIN system. NIBIN enables agencies to conduct comparisons across many jurisdictions, without the packing, shipping, handling and chain of custody problems that often complicate transfer of actual evidence. The NIBIN system also provides valuable advance information: while the correlation result in this case led firearms examiners to pursue comparisons further, NIBIN comparisons could also be invaluable in identifying non-matching comparisons and eliminating unnecessary evidence shipments.